REMARKS

In the May 13, 2008 Office Action, claims 1-13 stand rejected in view of prior art. Claims 1 and 5-7 are further rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 14-20 were withdrawn from further consideration. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the May 13, 2008 Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3-7 and 9-13, and canceled claims 14-20 as indicated above. Thus, claims 1-13 are pending, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Election of Species

In numbered paragraphs 1-6 of the Office Action, Applicant's election of Group I drawn to a process (claims 1-13) without traverse during a telephone conversation between Examiner Shamim and the undersigned on May 9, 2008 was acknowledged. Applicant hereby affirms this election of Group I (claims 1-13) without traverse.

Applicant canceled the non-elected claims 14-20 in the current Amendment.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

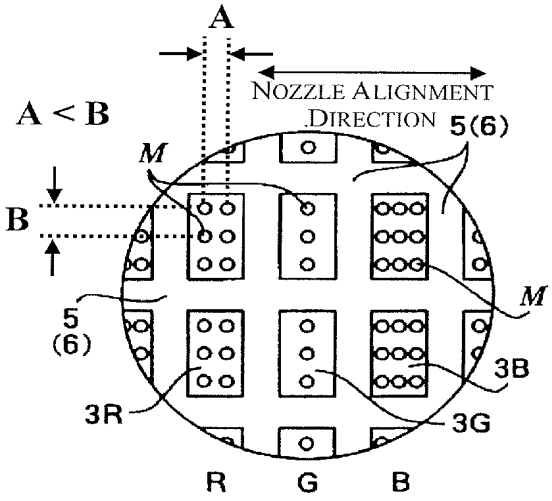
In numbered paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Office Action, claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0001992 A1 to Kawase et al. (hereinafter "Kawase et al. publication"). In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to clearly distinguish over the prior art of record.

In particular, independent claim 1 now recites droplets of a functional liquid are discharged from the nozzles onto a predetermined discharge area in the base to ***continuously form a functional film within the predetermined discharge area***, and the droplets are discharged so that an interval between adjacent droplets in the first direction within the

predetermined discharge area is ***greater*** than an interval between adjacent droplets in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction within the predetermined discharge area. Applicant believes the amendments are fully supported at least by Figure 6-1 and corresponding description in the original disclosure.

Clearly, this structure is ***not*** disclosed or suggested by the Kawase et al. publication or any other prior art of record.

The Kawase et al. publication is absolutely silent about discharging the droplets so that an interval between adjacent droplets in the first direction within the predetermined discharge area is ***greater*** than an interval between adjacent droplets in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction within the predetermined discharge area as now recited in independent claim 1. Moreover, as seen in the annotated version of Figure 11(b) of the Kawase et al. publication as reproduced below, the Kawase et al. publication clearly shows that the interval between adjacent droplets in the nozzle alignment direction (first direction) within the predetermined discharge area is ***smaller*** than an interval between adjacent droplets in a direction (second direction) perpendicular to the nozzle alignment direction within the predetermined discharge area, which is ***opposite*** from the arrangement now recited in independent claim 1.



INTERVAL (DISTANCE A) IN NOZZLE ALIGNMENT DIRECTION IS ***SMALLER*** THAN INTERVAL (DISTANCE B) IN DIRECTION PERPENDICULAR TO NOZZLE ALIGNMENT DIRECTION

FIG. 11(b) of Kawase et al. Publication

It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference ***must*** disclose ***each*** and ***every*** element of the claim within the reference. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as now amended, is ***not*** anticipated by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Applicant believes that dependent claims 2-13 are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claim 1, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, dependent claims 2-13 are further allowable because they include additional limitations. Thus, Applicant believes that since the prior art of record does not anticipate the independent claim 1, neither does the prior art anticipate the dependent claims.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejections – Double Patenting

In numbered paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 5-7 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 of U.S. Patent No. 7,226,642 to Sakurada (hereinafter "Sakurada patent"). In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 as mentioned above.

More specifically, independent claim 1 now recites droplets of a functional liquid are discharged from the nozzles onto a predetermined discharge area in the base to ***continuously form a functional film within the predetermined discharge area***, and the droplets are discharged so that an interval between adjacent droplets in the first direction within the predetermined discharge area is ***greater*** than an interval between adjacent droplets in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction within the predetermined discharge area. Clearly this arrangement is ***not*** disclosed or suggested by claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 of the Sakurada patent.

More specifically, claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 of the Sakurada patent merely disclose changing the election spatial intervals by changing a speed of the moving operation. However, claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 of the Sakurada patent are ***absolutely silent*** about the specific arrangements of the interval between the droplets in the first direction and the interval between the droplets in the second direction as now recited in independent claim 1 (i.e., the interval between adjacent droplets in the first direction within the predetermined discharge area is ***greater*** than the interval between adjacent droplets in the second direction within the predetermined discharge area).

Accordingly, Applicant believes claims 1 and 5-7 are ***not*** rendered obvious over claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 of the Sakurada patent.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection be withdrawn in view of the above comments and amendments.

Prior Art Citation

In the Office Action, additional prior art reference was made of record. Applicant believes that this reference does not render the claimed invention obvious.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-13 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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